

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn) An isolated protein with endoribonuclease activity, wherein said protein with endoribonuclease activity is polyU and single strand specific, Mn⁺⁺ ion-dependent and able to release cleavage products having a 2'-3' cyclic phosphate at the 3' end, and wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID No 1.

19. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID No 1.

20. (currently amended) A recombinant vector able to express the nucleic acid ~~in prokaryotes~~ according to claim 19 in prokaryotes.

21. (currently amended) A recombinant vector able to express the nucleic acid ~~in eukaryotes~~ according to claim 19 in eukaryotes.

22-34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID No 1.

36. (withdrawn) An isolated protein with endoribonuclease activity, wherein said protein with

endoribonuclease activity is characterized in that said protein is polyU and single strand specific, Mn^{++} ion-dependent and able to release cleavage products having a 2'-3' cyclic phosphate at the 3' end, and wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID No 1.